

“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19 ESV



**A Baptism Manual for members of
Christ Lutheran Church**

**311 Hershey Rd
Normal, IL 61761**

309-706-9925

christlutherannormal.org

info@christlutherannormal.org

A Member Congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

www.lcms.org

Rev. Jonathan Huehn

Rev. Timothy Fitzner



Introduction

Congratulations on the birth of your baby!

Baptism is a perfect gift from God, a means of God's grace that is at the very center of our faith and life as Christians. Our Triune God brings us out of darkness, spiritual death, and possession by the devil, and into His marvelous light, life, and family in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. He marks us as His children in this sacrament. The baptized is joined to Christ in His death and resurrection. A daily dying to sin and rising to new life takes place. Therefore, parents of infants should be brought to the waters of Holy Baptism as soon as possible to receive this most blessed means of Grace from God. It is discouraged to wait until many months after the birth of your baby when all your family can gather for the rite.

General Notes on Holy Baptism at Christ Lutheran Church

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, the rite of Holy Baptism at Christ Lutheran Church, Normal, IL is reserved for candidates of all ages, but only those born to members of this congregation and who are in good standing, or those whom members assume the responsibility to bring up the child in the faith. If a candidate to be baptized is not an infant or young child, they are to receive adequate catechesis (teaching) in the Christian faith in *Luther's Small Catechism*, declare their faith in Christ and desire to be baptized, before being baptized. We strongly encourage the parents of infants and children to bring their baptized child to church every Sunday to nurture the faith of the child in the Divine Service. Baptism is not magic, not an automatic insurance policy for anyone to get to heaven. It is no guarantee that the child will remain a lifelong Christian. Baptism is a gift of God that must be fed and nurtured. Parents have this primary responsibility. When the seed of faith is planted in the child in baptism, the parents have the responsibility of ensuring that seed is fed, watered, and nurtured in the congregation. Parents must not neglect this responsibility in love for their child.

Sponsors & Witnesses

If the candidate for baptism is not able to speak for him or herself, LCMS Lutheran sponsors may be appointed to speak for the child. Sponsors are to be faithful in their attendance in church and a good example of the faith actively lived out within the body of Christ. They are required to be baptized, communicant members in good standing of an LCMS congregation. Please choose a sponsor wisely. It is encouraged that there be at least one sponsor for your child.

Witnesses are Christians, but not members of an LCMS congregation.

The Rite of Holy Baptism

This is a public rite within the congregation. It is therefore highly recommended that all baptisms are done in the presence of the congregation in one of our Divine Services. Private baptisms are discouraged, but some exceptions can be made by the pastor. When a baptism is administered privately, the congregation shall be notified publicly the previous Sunday.

Emergency Baptism or Baptism in the hospital

When an infant's life is in question, or if the parents would like to have the child baptized in the hospital, please contact one of the pastors immediately.

Requirement for all baptisms at CLC: All parents of Christ Lutheran Church are to have at least one in-person meeting with one of the pastors prior to having the baby baptized. We will review the doctrine of Holy Baptism from *Luther's Small Catechism* and the resource that is provided for you, titled: *The Baptism of Your Child* by Thomas and Carla Fast (cph.org). This meeting will also review the Rite of Holy Baptism from the LSB to ensure that the parents understand their responsibility in raising their child in the faith at Christ Lutheran.

An online version of *Luther's Small Catechism* can be found here for review: catechism.cph.org

For further instruction on Baptism: lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/doctrine#baptism

Additional Resources for Holy Baptism can be found at cph.org

After the baptism of your child, you will receive a mailing from our congregation with several resources to encourage your bringing up your young child in the Christian faith. This resource is called *Nursery Roll: Enduring Faith Beginnings*.

BAPTISM INFORMATION

NAME OF PERSON _____

Address: _____

Date & Place of Birth: _____

Date & Time of Service: _____

Officiant: _____

Baptism Hymn/s from *Lutheran Service Book*: _____

Meeting Date with the Pastor: _____

PARENTS:

FATHER: _____

MOTHER: _____ **MAIDEN NAME** _____

SPONSORS: _____

(WITNESSES): _____